

## STORY OF AN OPAL.

"Do I believe the opal is a gem of ill-omen? Do I believe in life, in love, in music? Have I any little pet belief that is dear to my soul? Let me tell you a story for answer."

"When let us go out and stroll on the plaza. It is pleasant there than here in the ball room, and vastly better for conversation. Besides, I think you are tired of dancing."

"No, I never tire of that; the walls in the ball room are so close, but I will go outside with you, for it is very warm."

The long plaza faced the beach, and the music of the lapping waves mingled with the strains that came drifting out from where the dancers gaily circled. The air from the sea was soft and warm, and the moon and stars shone down with a soft radiance. Yet Miss Merton shivered a little as the cool wind touched her, and drew her thin mantle closer about her white shoulders.

"Will you go inside if you are cold," said her companion, noting the movement. "Perhaps you are not used to the night air."

"No, it always makes me cold to think of an opal. They call the light in them fire, but it chills me instead of warming. They are as chattering and treacherous as the sea yonder."

"The sea has been my good friend," said the other. "I have found that its changes run me."

"That is all very well for a man, lieutenant, but a woman needs something different from men. There should be nothing in their lives to disturb their calm. That is why I have found that it is a friend of mine."

"Fancy still do much for a woman," he remarked.

"If you are going to laugh and fling at me, I leave you," said Miss Merton. "I can find better amusement than being laughed at in the ball room."

"I beg your pardon, I will be very good," he answered, contritely.

For a few moments they walked on silently until they were at the farthest end of the plaza. Then Miss Merton began her story. Her voice was low and musical, and at first Lieutenant Phelps—who had long been beyond the sound of any woman's voice, whatever, was content simply to listen to its smooth flow. But she had only spoken a few words when he began to find her story of absorbing interest.

"The opal," said Miss Merton, "was given to me by the woman whom he said he loved. The man believed in the evil power of the stone. Now, sir, you say I am a fool and have your finger at me. He was afraid of it, but she was not. When he told her to choose she asked for it, and he gave it to her, with many a caution."

"If any harm comes to it harm will come to us," he told her. "You must never let it be upon the hand of another, for then that one will come between us."

"She promised, of course, but she was false and careless, and did not care for looking at the serious side of life when there was a brighter and better one to see."

"The stone was very beautiful. In its depths it held all the glowing colors of the rainbow. It fascinated me when I looked at it, but frightened me because it was so treacherous. As I told you, my friend was young. She had not yet learned how very serious a matter life is. The ring kept other men away from her, but she was not so foolish as to believe that the poor girl's proud spirit rebelled, as it should have done. Then she brought this ring to me."

"Yes, I know what you are going to say—that she should have reckoned upon that—that she would not have cared if she really loved him. But you cannot change the nature of a girl in a day. She found that the ring narrowed her life, and so one day she put away."

"If she was not willing to wear it she should have given it back to the man who gave it to her," said the lieutenant. "It would have been a misunderstanding."

"No, it would not have been a misunderstanding," said Miss Merton. "He would have said that she did not care for him, that she had never loved him, that she had played him false, and all the other nice things men tell the women they love whenever their point of view happens to be different. So the poor girl did what she thought was best and laid the ring away and met him one day without it on her hand. I don't know what he said to her, but he was so brutal about it that the poor girl's proud spirit rebelled, as it should have done. Then she brought this ring to me."

"Helen," she said, "I know you love me. I can trust you. He said that if any other wore it, that one would come between us. Now I want to show him how silly his superstition is. I want the ring, but I do not want it to be my tyrant. Take it and wear it tonight and let him see it on your hand. And Miss Merton's voice grew very soft so you won't come between us, will you, sweetheart?" she asked, kissing me.

Miss Merton paused, and they both stood silently and looked out upon the sea, bathed in its glorious moonlight, for a long time. The lady stole a glance at the man's face, to see if he took any interest in her story. But it told no more

a little good natured advice to one of the muses, who is noted for his ready wit.

"I say, Mike," said the German, with a broad smile. "I want you to be very careful not to leave any notes in that foundation, because I'm going to find out what you're up to, and I don't want to get in, do you see?"

"That's all right, sir," said Mike, good naturedly. "If I do happen to leave a hole or two between the stones, I'll have them filled in for the cats to get in after the rats, so you'll have no reason for scolding me."

New York Herald.

### EVEN WITHOUT THE BALLOT.

Women Are Able to Exert Considerable Influence in the Political Field.

The suffragists assert that women will not take part in public affairs unless they are rewarded with the franchise. This is a statement that women by their disinterested, impersonal work in every direction, are daily contradicting. Says the Century: "That they do need before in numbers they become the political helpmates of men is the conviction that they can learn to be helpful, and that their help is needed in the body politic. This they have never seen in their own lives. And when they set to work to find out how they can best make themselves useful, they will discover that it is only by a mastery of hard facts, and by the onward propelling power of disinterested effort that men in politics attain best results. The so-called 'coaxing' and 'whispering' of women, supposed to be in such force and favor with men, and sometimes used as an ill-natured taunt by one kind of woman to another, is an over-estimated power. Men can usually be coaxed into giving away only that which they themselves do not value. The occasion of a first conference between two of the opposite sex may be marked by grace and gracefulness, but after that a woman must depend, as men do among men, upon the merits of her cause, and the power of knowledge and good sense that she is able to bring to its support. Almost every woman who interests herself in public affairs and has had experience with officers of government and men of personal influence, will corroborate this statement. She will gladly confess, too, that the more she works the more she learns that her best strength lies in the strength of the object that she has at heart. She will win or fail, too, just in proportion to her ability and the single-mindedness of purpose with which she keeps this object in view."—Chicago Herald.

### ACCORDING TO LAW.

Judge to Witness—Now, madam, I want you to distinctly understand that hearsay is not evidence. How old are you?

Witness—I don't know, judge.

Judge—Don't know?

Witness—I have no evidence of my age.

Judge—What do you mean?

Witness—I mean that I am so many years old, judge, but it's only hearsay, and you know that isn't evidence.—Chicago Times.

### CHURCH DIRECTORY.

Religious notices inserted free in this column if handed in before noon on Saturday.

Services at St. Mark's cathedral today as follows: Holy communion at 7:30; Sunday school at 9:45; matins, litany, with sermon at 11; evening song at 7:30 p. m. Subjects of sermon, evening, "Christian Fraternity," evening, "Dying Year," A. Kinny Hall, priest in charge.

First Presbyterian Church—Corner of First South and Fourth East. The pastor, Rev. Clarence T. Brown, will exchange morning and evening with Rev. W. S. Hunt of Park City at 11 a. m. Mr. Hunt's subject will be, "Christ's Place in the World," at 7:30. "Self Denial," Sunday school at 12:15. Y. P. S. E. at 6:15; prayer meeting Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

First Baptist Church—Take either line of cars to Seventh East and Seventh South. Preaching this morning at 11 o'clock by Prof. A. W. Hartshorn, of the West. Seminary in the evening, the pastor preaches at 7:30 on "New Year Meditations." Sunday school at 9:30; Epworth League at 6:15. J. D. Gilliam, pastor.

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—Mission chapel Second South between Second and Third South; Sunday school at 10 a. m.; preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. by Elder H. D. Smith; subject, "Man's Need of Revelation."

First M. E. Church—Corner of First South and Ninth East; Dr. H. H. Smith will preach at 11 a. m. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will follow; love feast will be held at 5:30 p. m.; preaching at 7:30 p. m. On Monday the watch night service will begin at 11 p. m. E. G. Hunt, pastor.

Westminster Presbyterian Church—On Fourth West between First and Second South. J. L. Arnold, pastor; preaching in the morning at 11; in the evening at 7:30; Sabbath school at 12:15; young people's meeting at 8:30 p. m.; mission Sabbath school in northwest part of city at 3 p. m. The Wednesday evening prayer meeting at 7:30. Seats free. Everybody made welcome.

Theosophical society meets at 11 a. m. Room at No. 504 Progress building; subject, "Programme for 1895."

East Side Baptist Church—Corner Third South and Seventh East, S. G. Adams, pastor; preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Sunday school at 12:15. C. B. meeting at 6:30 this evening; adjourned annual meeting next Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.; theme of sermon this evening, "Religious Railroad." All are invited.

First Church of Christ (Scientist)—No. 70 East Third South street; Sunday school at 10 a. m.; church services at 11 a. m.; study of the Bible and Science and Health every Wednesday at 10:30 a. m.; study of the International Sunday school lesson Friday at 7 p. m.; reading room and dispensary at same place open daily from 10 a. m. till 5 p. m. All welcome.

Unitarian Church—Unity hall, No. 44 Main street; begins at 11 a. m.; all seats free; subject, a New Year's sermon by Rev. Stanley M. Hunter on "The Old and the New; Which Shall We Stand By?" On Wednesday, January 2, Prof. C. A. Whitney, of the university, will lecture before the Unity club in Unity hall. The public welcome.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Saviour—Rev. E. Skabo, pastor; services today at 7:30 p. m. and New Year's Day at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. in 317 South Third East street. Pastor's residence at 27 South Fourth East street.

First German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Church—Services today at 11 a. m. in our church on Seventh South and Fifth West by Rev. C. W. Kuhrt; also service on the last night in the year at 7 p. m. On New Year's Day services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. All are invited to attend these services. Minister's residence: 207 South Fourth East at 6 p. m. in basement of a child of Mr. and Mrs. Hofman in the house of the parents.

English Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity—Rev. James F. Burt, pastor; services today at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; New Year's sermon in the evening at 8:45 a. m.; church council meets on Monday evening; annual congregational meeting on Wednesday, January 2, at 7:30 p. m.; holy communion on first Sunday in January at morning service. All services and meetings held in the Memorial chapel on Fourth East between Third and Fourth South streets. Pastor's residence at rear of chapel.

Phillips Congregational Church—Seventh East and Fifth South. Rev. Dana W. Bartlett, pastor. New Year's sermon at 11 a. m.; Sunday school at 12:15; Y. P. S. E. at 6:30; evening service at 7:30. New Year's resolutions. Phillips church will watch the old year out from 10 to 12 o'clock; all pupils in Congregational Sunday school invited Monday evening at 7:30 to a grand stereopticon entertainment at First Congregational church.

Church of Christ (Scientist)—I. O. O. F. hall, Market street; Lewis B. Coates, speaker; Sunday school at 10 a. m.; church services at 11 a. m. Sunday and 2 p. m. Wednesday; International Sunday school lesson prepared Friday at 7:30 p. m. Free reading room in same building open daily from 9 to 12 a. m. and 2 to 5 p. m. All cordially welcomed.

First Presbyterian Church—Dr. R. G. McNiece, pastor; public worship at 11 a. m. and preaching by the pastor; Sabbath school at 12:15; Christian Endeavor meetings—Junior at 4:30, Senior at 6:30; evening worship and preaching at 7:30. Seats free at all these services.

Young Men's Christian Association—Holmes building, 211 State street; open meeting for men only today at 4 p. m. Conducted by Dr. T. C. Hill. Special music by male quartette. Evangelical bible class Monday at 8 p. m. All men are invited and will be cordially welcomed to these services.

St. Paul's Chapel—Main street and Fourth South street. Rev. L. B. Ridgely, priest in charge. Services today: 8 a. m., holy communion; 10:15 a. m., morning prayer and baptism; 11 a. m., holy communion and sermon; 3 p. m., Christian festival service of the Sunday school; 4:30 p. m., bible class; 7:30 p. m., choral evening prayer and sermon. Feast of the circumcision (New Year's day); 8 a. m., holy communion; 10:15 a. m., morning prayer; 11 a. m., holy communion; 6 p. m., evening prayer. Daily services otherwise as usual.

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### Notice to Water Rate Payers.

The Board of Equalization appointed to hear grievances from water-rate payers as to alleged excessive or wrongful assessments will sit in the council chamber, Wednesday evening, December 5, 1894, at 7:30 p. m., and continue in session each evening until further notice. By order of the City Council.

### Burlington Route Half Fare Clerical Permits for 1895.

Applications for half fare clerical permits for 1895 should be made to the undersigned not later than December 31, 1894. W. F. McMillan, General Agent, Room 11, over No. 10 West Second South street, Salt Lake city, Utah.

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